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Monday, June 15, 1981
Ottawa, Canada
Vol. 14, No.12

The Canadian INDIA TIMES

Single copy 35 cents (The national voice of Indo-Canadians)

Violence among Toronto Sikhs

Authorities in Toronto are now saying that there are serious internal disputes ongoing amongst Metro's Toronto Sikh Community following the shooting incident that took place last week at Woodbine Racetrack.

The third man being sought in connection with the May 18th shooting of Balwant Singh at the Woodbine Racetrack has been picked up. Kulnarm Singh Jagpal of Joshua Avenue, Toronto was arrested on May 24th by Metro Police and charged with attempted murder.

Balwant Singh, 33 Ravel Singh, 50, both of Hawkendon Crescent, Toronto, and Santockh Pahal, 28, of Burlington, told police they had parked their car on Highway 27 just south of Rexdale Boulevard and were walking along the shoulder of the highway when a van pulled up. Three men jumped from the van and started shooting.

Balwant was struck in the hand and neck. The other men were not injured. Balwant was driven to York Finch Hospital by his friends before police were notified.

Metro Police in Toronto are seeking a third man in connection with a murder attempt on the life of Balwant Singh of Hawkendon Crescent in Toronto, at the Woodbine Race Track on May 18, 1981.

So far, two brothers, Jarnail and Gurmit Kahlon of Dixon Road have been jointly charged with attempted murder. Both were arrested on May 23 by Metro Police acting on a tip.

The cause of the shooting was not disclosed.

Train mishap kills many

New Delhi, [Reuter] - The death toll in the train disaster in the northern Indian state of Bihar could be more than 1,000

A Bihar State magistrate said more than 1,000 people could have been killed. But according to the Deputy Speaker of the Bihar State Assembly, Gajendra Prasad, the figure could reach 3,000, the Press Trust of India reported.

Seven cars of the passenger train plunged into the Bagmati River on Saturday, and Indian Navy divers were recovering bodies from the river.

While about 120 bodies were recovered, many victims were believed to have been trapped inside cars still submerged in the river.

Member of Parliament Ram Vilas Paswan said in Delhi that more than 2,500 passengers were on the train.

Surinder Kapoor, cameraman of the international television agency VisNews, said many bodies were floating in the river yesterday. Mr. Kapoor said the local Magistrate, K.S. Shah, told him that the death toll could not be less than 1,000.

"We could see the wreckage of one of the coaches in the river, but there was no sign of the others. Navy divers were busy trying to get more bodies out," he said.

Early reports by the news agency said 200 people were feared dead in the accident. But later information quoted the Deputy Speaker as saying the train was overcrowded with hundreds of people on the roofs.

The Bihar Rural Development Minister, Choudhury Saladdin, returned to the state capital of Patna from the scene of the accident, and corroborated Mr. Prasad's estimate that the death toll could reach 3,000.

Mr. Saladdin said the accident was caused by the train's brakes being suddenly applied.

The engineer of the train apparently jammed on the brakes to avoid hitting a buffalo on the track.

But the Indian Railway Board Chairman, M.S. Gujaral, said the train was blown into the river during a storm.

People at the scene near Samastipur said many passengers travelling on the roof of the packed train were swept away by the current.

Program to combat racism

Ottawa -- "Racism is an insult to the spirit of Canada," said Multiculturalism Minister Jim Fleming as he announced three new initiatives to deal with the problem.

The Multiculturalism Minister will convene a National Symposium on Race Relations and The Law to be held this winter in conjunction with the Minister of Justice, the Solicitor General, and the Voluntary Sector. This symposium is a direct response to the interest expressed by groups such as the Canadian Jewish Congress to find ways in which the legal framework of Canada can better respond to incidents of racial discrimination and harassment.

Mr. Fleming said, "we are sorely lacking in information on the extent and causes of racism in our country. It is for this reason that programs announced today will include the formation of a unit within the Multiculturalism Directorate to collect data, conduct research studies and assist in the analysis of the root causes of racial intolerance." This unit will work closely with federal departments and other concerned agencies to develop initiatives to create better understanding and tolerance of our multicultural society.

Satellite lost

New Delhi [Reuter] - India's second earth satellite has burned up in space without completing its mission, the Indian Space Research Organization said.

The Indian-designed and manufactured satellite Rohini orbited lower than planned after its launching 10 days ago and lasted only nine of its planned 90 days. A similar satellite launched last July is still in orbit.

Mr. Fleming said that while developing analytical material on the causes of racism, he is prepared to initiate action immediately to combat one known cause - ignorance. Therefore Mr. Fleming emphasized the importance of a comprehensive program of public education.

Kits for police and teachers, employment counsellors and for the general public will be developed and distributed shortly. The minister is also calling on the Canadian media to volunteer time and space to better inform the public of the positive aspects of cultural and racial diversity in Canada.

Mr. Fleming is committed to reaching as many Canadians as possible. "Frankly, we probably should have had this emphasis long ago," he concluded.

The Multiculturalism Directorate budget will be increased immediately by 1.5 million dollars to commence these programs. These new initiatives will be in addition to the already established mandate of the program to assist ethnocultural groups to overcome cultural barriers, to promote national unity and to ensure full participation in Canadian society for all our citizens.

Symposium

The symposium to be held in co-operation with the Department of Justice, the Solicitor General and The Human Rights Commission, will bring together legal experts from across the country, as well as representatives of government regulatory agencies such as the CRTC, Human Rights officials and specialists in the field of race relations.

The symposium will be designed to seek recommendations of ways in which the legal framework of Canada can be made more responsive to incidents of racial discrimination.

Research

This unit will be responsible for collecting and reviewing information on research already undertaken on the subject of racism in Canada, the U.S. and other countries.

It will also undertake research into such areas as the influence of economic factors on social tensions: the causes and implications of the recent resurgence of extreme right wing organizations.

Research findings will lead to the implementation of programs designed to deal with the problem areas identified.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

The contributions which all cultural and racial groups have made and are continuing to make to the cultural, social and economic vitality of this country are not widely appreciated. The comprehensive public education and communications plan announced today will help to fill this information void.

An integrated media campaign involving majority radio, television and press will be designed to reflect the positive contributions which Canada's many cultural minorities have made to our society.

A direct mail campaign will inform the general public of the benefits of cultural pluralism.

Resource kits for teachers, police and other front-line community workers will be developed.

Developmental and financial assistance will be made available for seminars on race relations organized by community groups, service clubs, religious organizations, unions, businesses and educational institutions.

The minister and the multiculturalism directorate will work with media, advertising agencies and other institutions to develop more effective guidelines regarding stereotyping and racism in reporting, programming and hiring practices.

They launched the satellite

Sriharikota, [UNI] - India's indigenous satellite launch vehicle, SLV-3, fired off the Sriharikota Range (SHAR) on Sunday, May 31 at 9.05 a.m. lifting into orbit the 38-kg rohini satellite 12 minutes later.

The launching has established the scientific and technological soundness of the indigenously developed launch vehicle which will form the core for the bigger versions vital for a variety of orbital missions and probes.

The Trivandrum Tracking Station confirmed 100 minutes later that the satellite was giving very good signals and all the systems were functioning well.

Hundreds of scientists, engineers and technicians of the Indian Space Research Organisation contributed to the success of the first developmental flight of the satellite launch vehicle (SLV-3-D1)

Leading and guiding them were five men who formed the "brain" behind the launch. Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the silent hero of last year's successful SLV-3 test flight, was not one of them.

Ved Prakash Sandlas, mission director, SLV-3-D1, was the co-ordinator and overall incharge of the mission. A physics graduate of Delhi University and a B.Tech (Hons.) in electronics and electrical communications engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, he is a specialist in electromagneric compatibility.

Mr. Sandlas was responsible for the development of the Rohini technology payload for the experimental flight of SLV-3. He hails from Manki, near Samrala in the northern state of Punjab.

Dr. Vasant Gowarikar, director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Trivandrum, is entrusted with the task of developing rocket and launch vehicle technology for the space programs. Born in Poona in 1933, he did M.Sc. and Ph.D. in chemical engineering at Birmingham University, U.K. He worked for the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority and an agency establishment of the British Ministry of Aviation before he joined the space centre in 1967.

Col. Nilambar Pant, director of SHAr centre, was deputed from the Signal Corps of the Army to the Department of Atomic Energy for setting up the first experimental satellite communication earth station. He was the chief systems engineer for the first commercial earth station at Arvi, near Pune, which was successfully completed in 1971.

Col. Pant was the director of experimental satellite communication earth station and the project director for ISRO for satellite communication experiment project (STEP) till 1977.

He was awarded the Hari Om Ashram Prerit Vikram Sarabhai Award for 1975 for his achievements in the field of electronics and telecommunications. He hails from Almora in Uttar Pradesh.

Ratnaraj Jayamani, director of ISRO's range complex, is a mechanical engineer who was responsible for installation and coordination of various facilities at the SHA right from the construction stage of buildings to designing and installation. The facilities at the range provide full support to many users who have been impressed by the type of facilities and the support.

Dr. Tarsem Singh (45), project director of RS satellite, had a meteoric rise from the position of an engineer in the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in a short span of eight years.

A science graduate from Allahabad University and a diploma holder in electronics from the Madras Institute of Technology, Dr. Singh served for seven years from 1970 as the head of the satellite systems division of the space scientific and technological centre.

With the coming of the Indian satellite project in Bangalore he was group leader for instrumentation and ground support system responsible for the development of onboard instrumentation and checking and testing of the integrated satellite on ground. He was associated with the project till the launching of Aryabhata in 1975.

In the same year, Dr. Singh was made project engineer for the Rohini Satellite RS-1. He was responsible for configuration design and fabrication of RS satellite.

Moral education in schools

New Delhi, [UNI] - To inculcate moral values in young children, ten Indian States have made a formal provision for inclusion of a moral education program in the school curriculum.

While there is no uniform pattern of imparting moral education, certain common features are noticeable.

Children are taught to have equal respect for all religions, develop qualities of a good citizen, be patriotic, have respect for parents and teachers and develop a spirit of fairplay, justice, truthfulness and honesty. Emphasis on these values, however, varies from state to state.

Since co-curricular activities play an important role in inculcating values, some states organise field and outdoor activities like scouting and celebrating anniversaries of great men. Bringing out wall magazines, organising debates and putting up charity shops are some of the other activities encouraged towards this end. Some schools occasionally show educational films to emphasise moral values.

Most of the states do not have any formal instructional material to impart moral education, though a few states have produced text books in an effort to standardise the education being given. A survey report also reveals that some components of moral education exist in subject like history, civics and language text books.

While in some states, students have to undergo a rigorous formal examination to prove the extent of knowledge grasped, in other states they are assessed informally on an internal basis. It was observed that in South Indian States, moral education is imparted throughout the years of schooling.

The survey conducted by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is expected to help the deliberations of a high-level national seminar to be held here shortly.

Pak to have Council

Bombay, [UNI] - Pakistan President Zia-ul-Haq's drive to 'Islamise' the country is not aimed at taking the country into the primitive stage, according to Law Minister S.S. Pirzada. "We are adopting only rational laws," Mr. Pirzada told UNI in an interview here. He claimed that the crime rate had gone down by at least one-third after the introduction of "Sheriat."

Mr. Pirzada who was here on his way to Colombo to attend the Afro-Asian Legal Consultative Committee's meeting, disclosed that Pakistan would have a nominated Federal Council within a month. Functioning on the lines of a national assembly, the council would have over 250 members drawn from various sections of society, like businessmen, doctors, lawyers, workers, students, women and minorities.

He said, President Zia was "trying to have as many sections as possible, including the elected representatives of the local-bodies, in the Council."

Gen Zia's aide said, "if everything goes well, the council may hold its first session on July 1 when the country's budget is due to be announced." The members' list was being given final touches.

Asked about the possibility of holding general elections in the near future, he said, "nobody in Pakistan wants elections now in view of the changed international situation." The developments in Afghanistan had forced the people to realise that the need of the hour was to maintain national unity and not to "fritter away the time in elections."

The Federal Council, he claimed would be "as good as an elected assembly and would function in an absolutely democratic way."

Dumping of unsafe drugs

New Delhi, [UNI]-Drugs banned in the United States and other Western countries find their way into the markets of the Third World through the multinationals.

These drugs, it has been observed, cause irreparable damage and prove fatal to the consumers since they are marketed while still under experimentation wihtout confirming the long-term effects.

A recent report in sections of the Western Press states that a multinational drug firm is keeping surveillance over 7,000 women in Bangladesh who have been administered the controversial contraceptive Depo Provera. Leading newspapers have commented that "Western prestige will slump in all the Third World countries if the drug proves harmful in any way".

This drug was banned in the United States by the U.S.Food and Drugs Administration following limited human trials. Laboratory test reports revealed that female beagles who were given this drug developed cancer of the breast. Even though the U.S. Administration banned its distribution by its agencies abroad, the manufacturers have introduced it in the Third World countries with lax drug controls.

An Indian newspaper report states that ever since drug administrations in Europe and America tightened regulations for mass distribution of new pharmaceuticals following the thalidomide disaster wherein an anti-morning sickness drug was conclusively proved to cause foetal defects, the multinational drug corporations have shifted to their subsidaries in underdeveloped countries to carry out human trials of drugs under test, thus exposing the people in these countries to known and unknown hazards.

Microwave with Bangladesh

New Delhi, [UNI] - A multichannel microwave radio telecommunication link between India and Bangladesh, was inaugurated recently when the Bangladesh Minister for Posts and Telegraphs and Telephones, A.K.M.Mayeedul Islam rang up the Commerce Minister,Pranab Mukherjee from Dacca.

The two Ministers noted that the new link bridged a long-felt gap in the communication system between the two countries. This link, they hoped, would provide effective and stable communication facilitites and help development of still closer relations between the two countries, particularly in trade and commerce.

This new microwave radio link will provide a stable communication medium and cater to future demands for telephone, telegraph and telex calls between the two countries.

The new link bridges the gap in domestic wideband microwave systems already existing in both countries by a single-hop installation between Krishnagar (India) and Chuadanga (Bangladesh).

Dowry demand boomerangs

Jabalpur[Madhya Pradesh], [UNI] - An Indian bridegrom and his close relatives who formed the marriage party learnt the lesson of their lives for making extortionist demands for dowry.

In the Newton-Chakli town of Chindwara district of the central Indian provice of Madhya Pradesh, preparations were ready in a middle class Hindu family for the celebration of their daughter's wedding. The bridegroom hailed from nearby Sagar town.

The terms of the dowry had been settled and indeed paid in advance.

But at the last minute, the bridegroom's party demanded that a motor cycle should be given as an additional gift. The bride's father, driven to a corner, offered to pay Rs.4,000 on the spot, if the bridegroom would agree to get through with the marraiage ceremony. But the young man and his group were adament, insisting that the mobike be produced there and then.

What they got was not the mobike, but the lesson of their lives. Herded into a room, they were locked up for eight hours and released in the morning before a hostile local crowd that roughed them up and in a final act of humiliation paraded them naked through the streets.

India-b... in six m...

New Delhi, [UNI] -India may commission an indigenous nuclear power reactor within six months from now.

The scientists here are confident that their long-cherished ambition of having a fully indigenous atomic power reactor free from foreign inspection will see the light of day when the first unit of the Madras Atomic Power Project (MAPP) is begun.

Despite a number of failures in the initial stages and the precarious situation as regards the supply of heavy water to the plant, Department of Atomic Energy sources claim to have achieved success in providing the required quantity of heavy water for MAPP to have it going.

Sea eros... rocket la...

Bombay, [UNI] - The vital coastal installations of India's prestigious Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station at Thumba, near Trivandrum, are threatened with sea erosion.

The installations facing danger are the control centre, launching pads, static test facilities and transmitting stations.

The scientists at the

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India-built reactor in six months

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Normally, a 235 MW reactor of this type needs 200 tonnes of heavy water. Plants at Tuticorin and Baroda are capable of producing together 138 tonnes of heavy water annually.

Heavy water is extracted from ordinary water, in which it is present in small proportion. Use of synthetic gases from fertiliser plants is used to extract heavy water.

Provision for indigenous heavy water would also mark an achievement for the Indian nuclear power programme. At present, two operating nuclear power plants at Tarapur and Rajasthan are being internationally inspected as required by the suppliers.

DAE had been considering for quite some time to free the country from the imports and thus from the inspection, but implementation had faltered at every stage. The unit of the Rajasthan reactor was expected to be mainly indigenous; the setback in heavy water production forced the country to import it.

But the MAPP-1 reactor is at present being tested with ordinary water. Heavy water is not available. When supply is assured, then it would ensure that the second generation reactors, namely fast breeders, would also be free from international inspection. The two MAPP reactors would provide about 40 tonnes of spent fuel for reprocessing.

Sea erosion threatens rocket launching

Bombay, [UNI] - The vital coastal installations of India's prestigious Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station at Thumba, near Trivandrum, are threatened with sea erosion.

The installations facing danger are the control centre, launching pads, static test facilities and transmitting stations.

The scientists at the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa, express the fear that even rocket launching could be affected in future due to "foundation failures" of the shore installations. "The problems can be serious during the monsoon when meteorological rockets are invariable fired from the station," they contend.

The caution was given in study report conducted by NIO at the request of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Trivandrum, to suggest suitable remedial measures to protect these vital coastal installations, when they were alarmed by the severe erosion to the foundations of some of these installations suited along the Thumba beach in 1975. A similar erosion occurred in 1976 also.

The NIO team of scientists at its Cochin regional centre which carried out the field investigation, discovered that the width of the beach had shrunk to 60 metres at stations "one, two and three." "Shoreline recession takes place all along the Thumba beach during the monsoon and particularly at stations two and three. The erosion is at its maximum during August," the report warns.

"There is significant transport of sand in both the onshore and offshore directions due to seasonal variation in the wave climate. The erosion of the beach was due to the attack of steeper waves with relatively high energy for a short period of time during the southwest monsoon, when sand transport takes place predominantly in the offshore direction," the report says.

The report says "the net sediment budget computed showed that 83000 cubic metre of beach material had been lost from the beach during the observation period from April 1976 to March 1977."

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Incentives for Indians to return

New Delhi, [UNI]-The government of India plans to involve Indian engineers, technologists, professional specialists and highly skilled scientists working abroad in the research and development programmes of the country.

India proposes to associate these people in negotiations for purchase of new technology from abroad, promotion of Indian export and in various other fields including manpower training. The Minister of State for Science and Tehcnology bas expressed the view that over 600 new research and development units could be made more effective if Indian scientists abroad would provide the necessary technology support. Indians abroad could assist in selection of latest technology appropriate for assimilation and smooth transfer in the country.

In high technology areas of electronics and energy, the effort will be to induce scientists abroad to join the mainstream of national development. While some of them could provide consultancy services, others could set up joint ventures with enterpreneurs in India.

At present, lack of availability of manpower capable of handling advanced technical developments has been responsible for poor assimilation of imported technology. Indian engineering goods due to high prices and bad quality are non-competitive in the international markets.

The Indian government is now making an organised effort to innovate and make the application of imported technology feasible. Several high level meetings have been held and the announcement of the final decision wil be made shortly.

Satellite for telecast

Ahmedabad, [UNI] - India's first experimental satellite, APPLE, which is scheduled for launch some time between June 15 and 21 from the French Space Centre near Kourou in the French Guyana, will telecast the next Republic Day Parade from Delhi to all the major cities, besides conducting many experiments.

A 15-day advanced course on satellite communication for post-graduate students of the Indian Institute of Technology would also be carried out through the satellite. Experts at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) here in the Western State of Gujarat are finalising the plan for the course.

The live telecast of the next Republic Day Parade on January 26, would be viewed in all the major cities like Madras, Calcutta, Bombay and Ahmedabad. The running commentary of the parade will be broadcast in four languages.

Under the 15-day advance course program, the students will be shown films and given lectures by experts for an hour during which any of the viewers would be allowed to put questions, to be answered by the experts.

Originally scheduled for March this year, the launching was postponed last December because of some hitch in the fuel injection system of the European Launch Vehicle, Ariane, which was to take APPLE (Ariane Passenger Payload Experiment) to the sky.

Indo-French talks on uranium

New Delhi, [UNI] - India and France will begin negotiations next autumn on the supply of enriched uranium from France for a fast breeder test reactor near Madras (South India).

Last September, the negotiations were suspended in view of the impending Presidential elections in France. The Indian scientists here feel that the changes in the French government will not affect the negotiations.

India and France have a long collaboration in fast breeder technology and several Indian scientists have been trained in France on various projects connected with the nuclear technology.

The fast breeder test reactor near Madras, which is based on the French technology of liquid sodium cooled breeders, modified to take the thorium covering, has a 40-MW outfit with a generation of 15 MW.

More tourists from Gulf

New Delhi,[UNI]-Tourist arrivals in India, especially from the Gulf countries, have increased in recent years. Nationals of Saudi Arabia in the 17-50 age group constituted the largest share in 1980. But the gap between male and female tourists from that country was more than 85 per cent, the men forming over 91.5 per cent of the arrivals.

A review of the tourist traffic shows that a total of 800,150 tourists, excluding nationals from the neighbouring countries like Pakistan and Bangladesh, came to India during 1980 as against 764,781 in 1979.

Nationals of the United Kingdom occupied the first position in tourist traffic to India in 1980, accounting to 12% of the total arrivals. This was followed by the United States constituting 9.8%.

Airlines handled 89.6% of the tourist traffic in 1980.

THE CANADIAN
INDIA TIMES

(Published on the first and third Monday of every month)

403 CATHERINE ST. OTTAWA, CANADA, K1R 5T5

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Second Class Mail, Registration Number: 1098"

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NEIGHBOURS

It has been said that the success or failure of the foreign policy of a country can be judged by its relations with the neighbouring countries. Using this standard India's performance in this area has been mixed.

After years of troubles with Pakistan, now it appears that a better understanding of each other's position is emerging in these countries. At one time, shining in borrowed plusses (of armament supplied by the West) Pakistan had lost all sense of reality to assume that Pakistan was an equal to India militarily.

Defeat in two wars with India and the loss of Bangladesh, taught Pakistan a lesson and it seems that country is more ready to talk sense than ever before. Of course, the final proof of sanity would be its open admission that Kashmir should remain the way it is now.

Perhaps the possession of a much-talked about islamic bomb by Pakistan could make that country's leaders go back to its early attitude to India - assuming that Israel does not find out where the nuclear reactor is located in that country.

India's Foreign Minister, Narasimha Rao deserves credit for initiating the recent round of talks between India and Pakistan aimed at finding solutions to some of the unresolved issues. We wish him well.

Letters

Today's youth

Todays Indian youth is caught between two strange worlds - the world of their parents and the one in which they are growing up. They are searching for the utopian society attempting to get the best of both the worlds.

This is not always easy. Often important decisions are made for them, which they either welcome or reject. They are often forced to decide whether they wish to stay with their Indian culture with pride or assimilate into the society in which they live.

Every Indian youth feels this, some more than others. To the majority of us, it is difficult to find someone we can relate to. Most, if not all, of us are in this dilemma. What we need is a group where we can meet one another and discuss the problems we face as Indo-Canadian youth.

Sunita Bhargava,
Dundas, Ontario.

Controversial island unfit

Calcutta, [UNI]-Viewed from a helicopter, the New Moore Island, off the coast of West Bengal (eastern India), looks like a giant tortoise with its back jutting out of the sea. At low tide, more land emerges out of the water, but it has no vegetation.

Bangladesh naval boats recently made several forays in the Bay of Bengal into the Indian territorial waters, while an Indian survey boat was collecting data on the island. They were probably asserting their claim to the island. India had to despatch a naval ship to the island following the approach of the Bangladesh speed boats fitted with guns.

Bangladesh authorities had earlier demanded withdrawal of the Indian naval ship and for the removal of man and materials including the Indian flag from the island. India has rejected the demand for withdrawal and has made it clear that it was left with no choice but to take precautionary measures in face of the highly provocative activities of the Bangladesh navy.

The island was first sighted by an American satellited in 1973. The naval hydrographic office in India charted it when it was emerging close to the Indian coast in the early seventies. It is only four km from the Bahgmari Tiger Project, the mainland of the Sundarbands (West Bengal) and has been christened "Purbasha" by the authorities of the 24-Parganas District and has been brought under its administrative control.

It was formed by silt brought from the Himalayan heights and the plains by the Ganges and Bhagirathi rivers. The Bhagirathi joins the Bay of Bengal over 100 km to the West of the New Moore Island, but the silt it unloads into the sea is carried by tides and currents.

The newly emerging island has no habitation and can have none for the next 50 years. The adjoining area is a preserved forest where no human habitation is allowed.

It is seen here that the Bangladesh forays to the island and its claim to it has been raised on the eve of the departure of the Bangladesh Awami League President, Begum Sheikh Hasina from New Delhi to Dacca after a six-year exile. It is seen here that Bangladesh wanted to run an anti-India campaign to neutralise Begum Hasina's impact on the subcontinent. The Bangladesh authorities knew of the Indian ship "Sandhayak" and even as late as May 10, two Bangladesh navy gunboats had exchanged friendly greetings with the Indian ship.

India had made it clear that it was well within its rights to have a survey ship in its territorial waters and has lodged a strong protest against the intrusion of Bangladesh gunboats into the area.

Conference on Devadasis proposed

Bangalore, [UNI] - A four-member team of the Joint Women's Program (JWP), an organisation that fights for women's emancipation in India, has in its preliminary report challenged the prevalent view that the Devadasi system has not assumed commercial proportions.

According to the findings of the team, the system, though clothed in religion, is nothing but prostitution.

Under the "Devadasi" system, unmarried girls are offered often before they attain puberty, for service as temple dancers. This is done in fulfillment of a vow by the parents and for the purpose of warding off misfortune and calamity to the family. In many cases, the girls are led to a life of shame.

A noted social worker, Mrs. Suniti Pungliya had in recent months drawn attention to this 2000-year-old system which has now been degenerated into "sexual exploitation of poor women."

The team which toured Belgaum and Bijapur districts in the Southern state of Karnataka, found that the practice was virtually unchecked everywhere.

In Athani, for instance, 98 per cent of the families practice prostitution with each family having at least three girls in the profession. One of the reasons for the widespread practice is that a lot of Harijan (non-caste Hindus) women migrated to this town because it was a major trade centre.

A number of Devadasis in Nipani find their way to Bombay. In Athani, "regular agents in business" also send non-Devadasi prostitutes to Bombay.

The study discloses the people's indifference to the prevalence of the Devadasi system. Some pleaded ignorance of the law against the Devadasi system.

The report says that the higher castes indirectly encourage the system to keep down Harijans.

According to Mrs. Jyotsana Chatterji, Associated Director of JWP, a heartening feature is that many Devadasis have realised the demanding nature of their profession and are ready for a change if they can find alternative means of livelihood.

The organisation proposes to present a detailed report to the Government urging it to set up rehabilitation centres for Devadasi and non-Devadasis caught in the racket.

A conference of Devadasis is proposed to be held in Bangalore in the next two months to find solution to the problem.

Child marriages persist

New Delhi,[UNI]- For most toddlers of the Western State of Rajasthan, mid-May is the time when the wedding bells jingle.

Too early for matrimony, really. But that is how custom ordains. While most of them are bewildered and some dazed, some are, indeed, joyous in their innocence. None, however, are old enough to understand the implication of the hour-long ritual of marriage.

Most of the child brides dressed in their wedding finery are carried in arms to the ritual place where they sit through the ordeal, either sucking their thumbs or restlessly clamouring to run off at the first opportunity. When forced to sit they start bawling and are appeased only by a sweet. Finally they take the seven rounds of the sacred fire.

The custom of child marriage, deeply rooted in Hindu tradition, continues till today, in spite of government's efforts to abolish it through legislation like the Sharda Act promulgated years ago. Regardless of the Act which bans child marriage, year after year scores of children continue to be bound in wedlock. It is alleged that the Governments at both the State and Central levels turn a blind eye to the proceedings. Not merely being blind to the illegal activity but also participating in it are members of the State Legislative Assembly. Disapproving members of the ruling party Congress(I) have alleged that the Minister of State for Mines in Rajasthan, by marrying off two of his minor daughters recently, has violated the Sharda Act. Apart from legislators seeking his removal, women organisations have also threatened to take up the issue.

The women organisations feel it is high time the ignominy of the institution of child mariage is abolished not merely on paper, but in reality. Indian Government has formally stipulated the age of marriage as 18 for girls and 21 for boys with a view to ensuring stability of the institution, because it is supposed that a right choice would be possible only from a standpoint of maturity and responsibility.

It is alleged that child marriage leads to hundreds of women being abandoned by their childhood spouses who later in life disown all responsibility and refuse to conform to their parents deeds. This leaves women with unconsummated marriages, subjected to life-long bondage without ever seeing the husband.

Dea
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India's census has revealed a demographic disaster. The population stands at 684m, which is 12m more than expected(these pre-census expectations are included in our survey on the Indian economy, after page 54). In the 1970s, 125m newcomers crowded into this already overcrowded land. Indians are even beginning to talk as if their country could soon overtake China as the most populous country in the world. But China has its own worries: a census planned for next year could reveal the population to be closer to 1.2 billion than the 1 billion at present estimated.

Demographers had hoped that the family planning efforts of the past decade would sharply decelerate the growth of the population. This has not happened. Despite the spending of more than $1 billion, and the sterilisation of more than 20m people, the population grew by 24.75% in the 1970s - which was just about the same as the 24.80% recorded in the previous decade. The sample registration data on births had led the government to believe that the average birth rate in the 1970s would be 34.5 per thousand. The census indicates that the rate was actually 37 per thousand. While this is an improvement over the 41 per thousand recorded in the 1960s, it is still a far cry from the target of 25 per thousand.

Why has the falling birth rate not slowed down population growth? The answer is that the death rate has

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Agra, [UNI]-"We cannot afford to lose the Taj" is the cry of every conservationist in India. And the layman echoes the cry.

The Taj Mahal, built in 1631 A.D., is monument to love. It is built over the tomb of Mumtaz Mahal, wife of Shah Jehan, the fourth Mughal Emperor of India.

Even today it remains unique as the most magnificent marble monument in the world. But for the critic's eye it has lost some of its charm. And with it have faded many other monuments in Agra, once the imperial Mughal city, about 150 kms south of Delhi.

Despite several attempts over the years to protect the monuments in the city, they have been slowly damaged by smoke and soot from the 200 odd foundries and 50 other smoke-emitting units in and around Agra.

According to the conservation experts of the Archeological Department, the monuments are losing their colour and sparkle. There is also formation of gypsum, flaking and blackening and

Death loses race with birth

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Why has the falling birth rate not slowed down population growth? The answer is that the death rate has also fallen, from 19 per thousand to 15 per thousand. Fewer people are being born but even fewer are dying, and the result is that the population keeps exploding.

The silver lining to the census figures is the proof they bring that people are less hungry. The declining death rate cannot be explained only by the spread of health facilities. Hunger and malnutrition have traditionally been India's biggest indirect killers, leaving their victims prey to any passing disease. Population growth in the past has been lowest in the poorer states such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. The birth rate in these states has always been very high, but the high death rate kept the rate of net growth relatively low. The new census shows that in the past 10 years both states had a population growth higher than the national average.

The family planning drive went from strength to strength in the first half of the 1970s, culminating in Sanjay Gandhi's forced sterilisation drive in 1976-77. The political backlash was so severe that the Janata government, when it took over in 1977, spent its time promising compensation to the many unwilling victims of the campaign, instead of strengtheing the family planning campaign on a voluntary basis.

Even so, it is dismaying that so much sterilisation should have failed to make the expected impact. It looks as though many bogus sterilisations may have been registered merely to collect the cash incentive offered by the government. It also seems that many couples who decided to have themselves sterilised were already practising some method of birth control. To reduce fertility, the family planning drive will have to branch out to rural areas, where other forms of contraception are non-existent.

In the early 1970s the government started organising mass vasectomy camps in rural and semi-urban areas, offering cash to the tens of thousands willing to be sterilised. Inevitably there were abuses, and some camps were not exactly hygenic. But the census shows that concentrating on urban areas will not yield results. Probably, the rural camps will have to begin again in a more controlled, and cleaner, fashion. More than three quarters of the population still lives in villages, and it is there that the birth rate is highest.

Though Indians are shocked at the figures, the worst may now be over. The death rate is already so low, by third-world standards, that it will decline only slowly in the future. On the other hand, the birth rate should continue to fall fairly fast. Sample registration data suggest that the population growth rate is already down to 1.9%. The census results have shown that the sample data are not reliable; the present actual growth rate may be 2.05%. But even this is one of the lowest in the third world.

[The Economist]

Naxalites strike again

By George Mathew

New Delhi: The Naxalites are striking again in Kerala, thanks to the policy of political confrontation and appeasement pursued by the Nayanar Government.

The Naxalites who were lying low for quite some time are raising their heads in an organised manner in most parts of the state. Their terrorism and murderous activities are coming to surface once again in oder to herald "social justice" and an "Indian cultural revolution."

Mr. M.D. Mathai, an estate owner in Vyanad district, was also the Vice President of the Poothady panchayat. He was axed to death in his bedroom by Naxalites in May last. His son Devasi and wife escaped with head injuries. A 25-year Naxalite activist was also killed in police firing following the incident.

Mathai's younger son was killed by Naxalites 15 months ago.

A few months before the murder Mathai was tried by a "people's court" by the Naxalites in a public place. His offence was that he dismissed a cleaner of his lorry. After the trial they picked up Rs. 750.00 from Mathai's pocket and gave it to the cleaner.

On his complaint to the police a police party was deployed to guard Mathai's residence and give him protection. Posters were seen in the streets announcing that Mathai would be killed within 12 days. The murder took place on the 12th day in spite of police guarding the house.

The public trials are held by the Janakeeya Samskarika Vedi (people's cultural forum) which is a Naxalite organisation openly functioning in the state. The general public, although passive onlookers, seem to applaud its activities which are against gambling, boarding, bribery, cabaret dances and corruption.

A prominent doctor of the Calicut Medical College Hospital was tried by the "people's court" for exhorting money from the patients. He was made to parade in the streets with placards containing his offence hanging from his neck and was let off after obtaining an assurance from him in writing that he would henceforth eschew his corrupt ways.

In Trichur the forum snatched food stocks from the traders and distributed among the poor.

A lorry carrying sugar was waylaid on a highway and sugar was sold at control price to the crowd which gathered. The money collected was promptly handed over to the driver of the lorry before the Naxalite group dispersed.

In Vyanad M/S John & Co., are building a big hotel. The hotel walls were destroyed by the Naxalites.

Nearby, the Brother Mission constructed a prayer hall. At the inaugural day of the Hall, 150 invitees were to be given lunch.

At about lunch time 150 Naxalites entered the dining pandal and lavishly fed themselves. The left-overs had to be served to the guests.

These activities which are at variance with the militant tough line adopted by the Naxalites in the past are meant to obtain public sympathy. They are aware that the "murder and loot" policy adopted in the past had alienated them from the public. That policy is now reserved for extreme circumstances.

In an open letter addressed to the Prime Minister, printed and circulated, the Naxalites recall the good effects of the Emergency under which the government servants worked hard eliminating delay and corruption although the police assumed excessive powers to put down their activities.

The progressive policies of the state government for the benefit of the poor had become a failure because of delay and half-hearted implementation on the part of the bureaucracy. They threaten direct action including the breaking the heads of the non-gazatted government officers (NGOs) if the situation is not changed.

The Naxalites seem to prefer another spell of emergency without undue powers to the police.

Agra monuments lose charm

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Despite several attempts over the years to protect the monuments in the city, they have been slowly damaged by smoke and soot from the 200 odd foundries and 50 other smoke-emitting units in and around Agra.

According to the conservation experts of the Archeological Department, the monuments are losing their colour and sparkle. There is also formation of gypsum, flaking and blackening and scalding of stones. They fear that stone cancer may be afflicting the matchless architectural creations of the Mughal Emperors.

Earlier, there was a decision to shift the foundries elsewhere from the city, but nothing or very little has been to save the monuments from pollution. As far back as 1978, an announcement was made that the Taj was receiving "cosmetic touches by conservation experts to preserve its beauty". In March, 1981, the Uttar Pradesh Government announced that some units that emitted smoke would be shifted outside the city. But experts believe that if the pace of damage is not halted, only a few monuments would be left by the end of the century.

European travellers in the 19th century put the number of monuments in Agra at 200. At present, there are only 27 on record. Structures in the area have suffered at the hands of the vandals and rulers. The British damaged several buildings to set up a cantonment. The tomb of Jodha Bai, wife of Akbar and mother of Mumtaz Mahal, suffered the axe.

As industrialisation grows, space and need for new residential colonies arises. They add to the pollution which the city is already suffering from. Efforts to shift the foundries have not been successful; the industry's arguments are that the foundries are responsible for only a fraction of smoke while the bulk of it is emitted by railway steam engines, thermal power stations and the automobiles plying in the city.

Many monuments have also been converted to residential accomodation, like the building known as Takht Pahalwan, built during Akbar's reign for training wrestlers.

The foundries continue to melt iron, the thermal power units continue to be in operation and the railway marshalling yard emits steam. But the Archeological Department is leaving no stone unturned to save the precious monuments from ultimate decay.

Fibre technology developed

Chandigarh, [UNI] India has developed the sophisticated fibre optics technology with the recent breakthrough achieved by the Central Scientific Instruments Organisation.

The technology was until now a closely guarded "secret" with advanced countries, according to the CSIO director, Dr. Harsh Vardhan.

Its tremendous potential for various types of application, he said, include medical instrumentation and diagnosis without surgery, space and astronomical research, communication and night vision devices. It is also used in computer links, process control and automation in industry.

At present, fibre optics-based instruments and devices used in medicine, industry and research were imported at a high cost, Dr. Vardhan said, adding that costs would be cut by at least 50% with the indigenous development of this technology.

Parliament session in the South?

Bangalore, [UNI] - There is a possibility of a brief session of the Indian Parliament in the south.

This is the picture that has emerged after talks between the Union Minister for Works and Housing, Bhishma Narain Singh, and the Karnataka Chief Minister, G. Gundu Rao, here recently.

As many as 433 members of Indian Parliament had represented to the Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, to hold the session in Bangalore (state capital of Karnataka).

Mrs. Gandhi had expressed the view that the monsoon session (in August) could be held conveniently at Bangalore and had hinted that the financial implications should be worked out.

The cost of the month's session in the city, without the customary question hour, would be around 50 million dollars. Another 1.25 million dollars would be required to defray travelling and daily allowances of the members and the officials. In all, the session would attract 4,000 people from Delhi involving additional housing, water and telecommunication facilities.

The Union Minister, Mr. Singh, said he would have to examine whether it would be necessary to have permanent Parliament buildings in Bangalore if the brief session became a regular feature. The Karnataka State Government which favours the holding of the session, has plans to alter the seating arrangements in the States Legislative Assembly and the Council Halls for the purpose. It has also plans to acquire 40 hectares of land on the outskirts of the city for the construction of permanent Parliament buildings.

So far, ever since the country attained independence 33 years ago, Parliament has been meeting only in New Delhi, in the northern part of the sub-continent.

Foreign shipping firms beat Indian

New Delhi, [UNI] - Indian shipping companies have been losing heavily to foreign shipping lines despite Government exhortations to shippers to patronise Indian vessels.

Over the years the share of the cargo from India being lifted by the foreign vessels has been on the increase continuously. The share carried by the Indian ships slumped by 11.15 per cent during the four years from 1976. Indian shipping companies lifted only 28.45 per cent cargo in 1979-80, according to the latest official figures.

About 60 per cent of the India's sea cargo to the United Kingdom, continent of Europe and West Asian Gulf routes are at present being carried by foreign vessels. A sizeable chunk of the cargo on the other routes is also being lifted by them.

According to experts, the sharp decline in the Indian vessels' share has occurred due to stiff competition from non-conference lines who operate more sophisticated vessels and also quote low tariff rates compareed to the Indian lines.

Conference lines have been found to be deficient in adequate coverage of trade in terms of frequency of sailings and provision of overall space.

Pak nuclear blast in Turkey?

New York, [UNI] -Pakistan may set off its nuclear blast somewhere in Turkish territory in order to avoid detection according to a magazine here that has quoted highly secret US intelligence sources.

The article titled "A risky bet on General Zia", goes on to say that US intelligence operations indicate that Pakistani nuclear officials have been negotiating with Turkish government officals for a site to conduct a nuclear test.

There are indications, it says, that senior intelligence and White House officials within the American Government are encouraging the Pakistani-Turkish consultations.

According to the "Atlantic", a widely read magazine here, the White House plan is to make the Pakistan's blast "appear to be of an undetermined origin, at a location that does not obviously reveal the connection to Pakistan".

The article also hints at the possibility of Turkey seeking an exchange of know-how with Pakistan in the field of nuclear technology.

"It would be highly speculative, however, to conclude that the Turks are planning to leap from conventional to nuclear arms, and that the Pakistanis are willing to make the technical transfer they have sworn not to permit", it said.

The analysis concludes by quoting US administration officials as saying that the US support to Pakistan is based on the "Soviet threat" to its security and the USA cannot afford to let down the Pakistan President, however, disagreeable and expensive supporting him may be.

The US officials also contend that if Gen.Zia were overthrown by Mrs. Bhutto, Pakistan's military command would be decimated, as happened in Iran after the revolution. They emphasise that President Reagan could not tolerate the takeover of Pakistan by an intensely anti-American civilian group allied to "the Middle Eastern radicals and the PLO".

In order to achieve that objective, the Reagan administration is prepared to gloss over the recommendations of the State Department officials, who are worried that Mr.Reagan may be making a major change in US non-proliferation policy.

A Dramatic Demonstration

it's often assumed that people with mental or physical disabilities cannot participate in today's complex society.

As a symbolic gesture in this International Year, we've done something out of the ordinary: we've produced a television commercial – just to set the record straight.

Consider this. Of the 68 people involved in our production, 42 are mentally or physically disabled: among them, the director, the cameraman, the set designer and the carpenters, the electrician, the make-up artist, the sound engineer, the announcer, many of the musicians and the man who wrote the music, who was deaf – but is better remembered for being Beethoven.

If you've seen the commercial, you've seen what happens when we work together. If you haven't seen it yet, it's a dramatic demonstration of a single simple point: disabled people should be thought of for what they can do, rather than what they can't. Our slogan, created by a man with a disability, sums it up and says it all: "label us able."

Ontario

Margaret Birch
Provincial Secretary for
Social Development

William Davis
Premier

International Year
of Disabled
Persons

1981

FILMS

FERAAR [Bengali]
Story, screenplay and direction by Ashim Banerjee

Feraar is an outstanding film in many ways - for its realistic setting, for its in-depth charaterization, for the performances of its two chief charaters. A Bengali convict, and a Punjabi Sikh convict, both absconders from law escape manacled together. They depend ,of necessity, on each other, and exchange their experiences. If one wants to surrender the other would not let him. An understanding develops among the two.

The Punjabi convict's story is more interesting than that of the Bengali convict who wanted to kill his rich uncle who had usurped his father's property leaving him penniless and miserable. The Punjabi convict had saved the honour of a Bengali woman who was being offered to another man by her husband. He brings her home, treats her like his daughter, kidnaps her son from her husband's house and does everything to make her life comfortable. The woman dies of heart attack. Disheartened he surrenders to the police.

It is a touching film on the theme of national integration. The idea of two absconders, manacled together, is borrowed from a Hollywood film but story and screenplay are reoriented to emphasise the message of national unity and mutual help in times of need. For its clear-cut message, the film deserved encouragement. The film-makers went in for a good subject and made a clean film. There is little box-office masala. It was entered in the 28th National Film Festival but failed to win an award.

Its music is a blend of the Bengali and Punjabi. The Punjabi convict is played by Satyen Ganguly, a Bengali actor who in his mannerism, and gait looks every inch a Punjabi. If he is much more active than his Bengali companion, the screenplay requires it that way. Ashim Banerjee has an eye for realistic detail. His straigtforward treatment invests the film with a purpose even though the plot is occasionally overdone. After the initial hesitation among the two runaways, the film creates a human warmth between the two - belonging to different communities, and different regions.

Feraar was rejected by the committee selecting films for the Indian Panorama, a part of the eighth International Film Festival of India, but another Bengali film was accepted by the Directorate of Film Festivals, even though its print was not ready when the festival started on January 5, 1981.

The film-makers are not sure whether their film **feraar** was screened for the Jury of the 28th National Film Festival or not, though they had entered it and obtained receipt for all the connected material delivered at the DFF. This year the DFF did not circulate a list of the 82 films entered in the festival though the

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PAYAL KI JHANKAAR
Directed by Satyen Bose
Produced by Tarachand Barjatya

The title of the film, **Payal ki jhankaar** makes the theme clear. It is a film about dance, and music - even song and dance numbers, danced exquisitely by two ballerinas and sung mellifluously by a team of singers, prominent among them being Sulakshana Pandit (eight numbers), who is not always able to sing her own songs when playing the lead roles on the screen. Music director Rajkamal has borrowed profusely from the Hindustani classical music and based the tunes on Ragas and Raginis. For the purity of their classical idiom, **Payal ki jhankaar's** musical compositions and its music-maker won recognition from the premier film music organization of India Sur Samsad.

Though its storyline is somewhat different from that of **Shankarabharanam** (the Telugu musical which won last year the "Aesthetic Values and Mass Entertainment" award in the National Film Festival, and was a craze in the South), **Payal Ki Jhankaar** could be described as the Hindi equivalent of **Shankarabharanam** whose musical compositions won for their singer, Vani Jayaram, the best playback singer, (female) award, last year. In essence however the theme is similar: a young danseuse's dedication to the art of dance and her zeal to learn it though deprived of a guru's guidance. Komal Mahuvakar and Surinder Kaur (the Delhi-based Kathak danseuse who has appeared in many major roles in the Bharatiya Kala Kendra ballets and musical version of theRam Lila) - have proven mastery of the Kathak medium and match their steps in dance competitions. Komal has to be the better of the two, as she is the heroine, deprived of patronage and privilage of guru to guide her to perfection. But Surinder Kaur, who makes her screen debut in the film, commands no less expertise. The dance confrontations between the two remind one of Vyjanthimala's dance competitions with another danseuse in **Amrapali.**

The plot meanders slowly, acquiring melodramatic undetones, and makes no departure from a traditional screenplay even though it is written by Dr.Rahi Masoom Reza. But then maybe Barjatya wanted it that way - to make it acceptable to the traditional audiences.

Payal Ki Jhankaar is a low-budget film with no known starcast, no grandiose sets and not much gloss and glamour. It is pure and simple a musical entertainer meant to lift the soul.

Darshak
in Democratic World

HARISCHENDRUDU
(Telugu)
Directed by U Visweswar Row
Produced by U D Murali Krishna

In the south U Visweswar Row is a force to reckon with, not only as secretary of the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce and managing director of the South Indian Film Export Promotion Council, but also as a film-maker of exceptional talent and serious intent. Most of the 25 films he has produced so far have dealt with an analysis of the society's malaise and human follies. He has made experimental films too. **Nagna Satyam** ("The Naked Truth") - detailing the atrocities of the police - being one of them.

This time he has made a film seething with political intrigues, double deals, murders and revenge. A politicians god is his gaddi to keep which he is prepared to go to any extent even self-humiliation. The politician in **harischendrudu** is even ungrateful to his maker. He is worshipped till he commands power, after which his own near and dear ones desert him. When he dies, he dies an accursed life. Nobody comes forward to perform the last rites for him. His own maker, who was reduced to take up the management of a crematorium, refuses to cremate him. He is not prepared to bury him too. He wants the body to be dumped into the sea.

harischendrudu is in the same category of political cinema as Jabbar Patel's Simhasan (Marathi): both depict political reality of the day and expose the politician's unscrupulous ways to manoeuvre things in their favour.

The film seems to have been inspired by the mythological Harishchandra who was forced to take up the job of a cremator and refused to cremate his own son without payment of the requisite fee. Visweswar Row directs it with hard-edged precision. The Jury's citation for **harischendrudu,** declared as the Best Telugu film, says that it contributes "significantly to the development of political cinema in India." The other political film in this year's award-winners in the National Film Festival is Satyajit Ray's **Hirak Rajar Deshe** which, as Children's fantasy film , is a tirade against totalitarian rulers who consider their ministers as nincompoops ever ready to obey the dictates of their masters. **Hirak Rajar Deshe** brought for Ray the Best Music Direction award.

* * * *

NASEEB
Produced and directed by Manmohan Desai

Manmohan Desai,one of the best showmen of India after the spectacular success of Dharm-Vir, Amar Akbar Anthony and Parvarish,has come out with another costly extravaganza, Naseeb. It is, like his earlier three, a multi-starrer and has a complicated storyline in order to fit in four veteran friends, three heroes, three heroines and numerous other characters. Yet he did not seem to be satisfied with a multiple starcast. So in one dance-song sequence, in a restaurant, he rolled in another score of veterans and second-rate actors and actresses, maybe to add more glamour to it.

Naseeb, technically speaking, is Manmohan Desai's glossiest production - a sort of costume drama on grandiose sets, each costlier than the other, a glass house and a revolving restaurant where the finale takes place - extraordinary fights which one can imagine only in one's fantasy. To add to the film's attraction, he has shot a few sequences abroad.

The theme is similar to that of **Amar Akbar Anthony,** separation of brothers from their parents. The cast's role-playing is not much different from their set screen images. The film concentrates more on Amitabh Bachchan, the hero, playing a restaurant waiter in love with a rich pop singer, Hema Malini. Rishi Kapoor plays Amitabh's younger brother for whose education Amitabh works hard as a waiter. Kim is the girl in Rishi's life. Shatrughan Sinha is the third hero who also professes love for Hema Malini who spurns his advances. Reena Roy, another female decorative character, has given her heart out to Shatrughan Sinha. This completes the coupling of heroes and heroines.

The producer-director bombards the audience with spectacle after spectacle, never giving them a chance to think about the logic of the plot or its development to the finale. It bustles with numerous characters and bristles with six tuneful songs, sung mostly in the pop style, some by the characters themselves, and picturized with fluent camera movement.

Naseeb is Jal Mistry's best cinematographic work so far. Laxmikant pyarelal music directors and Anand Bakshi, the lyric writer, have combined their forces to give us some nice songs.

Twenty items for Asian games

New Delhi,[UNI]-The Asiad Special committee has decided to stage all the 20 disciplines which were approved by the Asian Games Federation in December 1980 for the 9th Asian Games to be held in November 1982.

Buta Singh, Chariman of the Special Committee, has said that three of the disciplines - golf, handball and equestrian items - are being held for the first time. The decision on rowing will be taken after finalising the suitable venue.

The games to be conducted are archery, athletics, badminton, basketball, boxing, cycling, equestrian items, football, gymnastics, golf, hockey, handball, shooting, swimming, table-tennis, tennis, volleyball, weightlifting wrestling and yachting.

Buta Singh said that two demonstration games, kabaddi (Indian) and sepak takraw (Malaysian national game), will also be staged.

There was a move in the past to drop five disciplines - archery, handball, golf, cycling and shooting - but the Organisation Committee has decided to include them.

All the events will be conducted at 17 different stadia in Delhi. Yachting will be held at Bombay, the coastal city in western India.

Buta Singh said the main stadium at Lodhi Road (south Delhi) will provide facilities for athletics to run on synthetic track.

A new shooting range is being laid at Tughlaqabad and the cycle vendrome will be built at the Rajghat sports complex.

Meanwhile, Delhi is having a facelift. The roads are being widened, strengthened and resurfaced. As many as seven flyovers are being constructed for smooth and uninterrupted flow of traffic. New hotels are being built, new housing complexes are coming up, stadia are in the process of construction and old sports complexes are being renovated and modernised.

Work seems to be running against the time. With only one-and-a-half year for the Games to start, projects in connection with Games are being assigned to several bodies. This will enable the work to be completed on time.

The New Delhi Municipal Committee, a civic body under the Delhi Administration, has been entrusted with some of the projects.

Construction of the air-conditioned, ultra-modern indoor swimming pool, a flyover, three five-star hotels and a youth hostel and improvement and expansion of the existing roads and stadia have been assigned to this civic body.

Polling by computer

New Delhi, [UNI]- Press a button and choose your leader? That may sound strange, but the Election Commission in India is certainly trying to computerise the voting system. The idea is to complete the country-wide general elections in a day and announce the results within five hours.

The era of push-button polling is not far off in India. At the request of the Election Commission, the Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL), a public sector undertaking, has developed a "polling computer" for use in the elections. The small machine run on dry cells, will cut the time taken by a voter in casting his ballot, provide complete voting secrecy, process in no time and display them at the push of the button.

Presidential Government?

From Our Correspondent

New Delhi: Mrs. Gandhi's government is preparing a draft bill to "usher in dynastic presidential system" in the country. This allegation came from the Lok Dal leader and former Janata Minister, George Fernandez.

A cell had been set up in the Union Law Ministry to study the Mexican, French, Latin American and other forms of Presidential governments, he added.

The government promptly denied the charge and said that no such cell exists in the law ministry.

Mr. Fernandez's allegation came after Prime Minister's son, Rajiv Gandhi, filed his nomination for the parliamentary elections from Amethi in Uttar Pradesh confirming speculations that he would ultimately enter politics.

With the political situation as it is today, there is no doubt that Mrs. Gandhi would prune her son to take the reign of administration on a future date to continue the family rule.

Rajiv Gandhi will have a cake walk in Amethi to reach the Lok Sabha as a Member of Parliament. This will give the "crown Prince" legal sanction to help his mother in political and official matters.

A Presidential form of government for India was hotly debated a few months ago, the echo of which were constantly heard in Parliament. A national convention of lawyers with substantial financial assistance from the government was held in the capital at the connivance of Mrs. Gandhi.

Political speculation was that Mrs. Gandhi might suddenly go for the Presidential system in order to derive her strength direct from the people and get rid of the much maligned Parliamentary system and the mushrooming of political parties each with personal motives rather than at larger national interest. But later she herself had stated that any system would have its drawbacks and weaknesses.

Indo-Pak ties renewed

Islamabad (Reuter) - Pakistan and India have agreed to rebuild their strained relationship and to hold more frequent consultations to prevent misunderstandings.

Official spokesmen said yesterday the accord followed a meeting of foreign ministers and senior officials from the two countries who are attempting to revitalize the 1972 Simla agreement. That pact renewed normal relations after three wars.

Spokesmen for both sides said Pakistani Foreign Minister Agha Shahi and Indian Foreign Minister P V. Narasimha Rao had met in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. This was evidence of their governments' determination to settle their differences peacefully, they said.

Mr. Rao arrived in Pakistan yesterday for a four-day visit.

Both countries appeared to defuse tension resulting from Pakistan's decision to seek U.S. help to modernize its armed forces.

Electric botor bike

New Delhi: India soon will have electric motorbikes on its roads, purely of indigenous origin, which would be a modest answer to the growing oil crisis.

Besides eliminating the need for petrol altogether, the electric motorbike is devoid of any pollution, either noise or smoke.

The bike runs on battery which consumes three units of electricity for a full charge which will be sufficient for a range of 80 km.

The battery can be recharged and can be used up to 40,000 km. The cost per km has been worked out to 4 paise as against ten times (40 p) in conventional bikes of the kind.

Its maximum speed is 40 km per hour. It can carry only one passenger while in India the conventional motorbike or scooter is often used to carry the whole family.

The battery can be charged at home and a battery charger is provided with the bike. The total cost is expected to be Rs 7500.00.

KASHMIR STARTS HOP CULTIVATION

New Delhi, [UNI]-The dense orchards of Kashmir, India's picturesque tourist attraction, are being converted into hop-yards.

Hop, consisting of bitter cones used to flavour liquor, is a drastic change from the succulent apples, peaches and cherries that the orchards hitherto yielded.

A leading orchardist has recently leased out a ten-acre farm to a leading brewery in the country who in turn, has converted it into a hop farm after felling the fruit-bearing trees. The area under hops in the Kashmir valley is expected to be over 300 acres as against only 96 acres in 1977.

Ritu Ranga impressive

ANNE-MARIE GASTON [ANJALI]

On May 23rd, the Indo-Canadian Women's circle presented a most enjoyable evening of dances by Vasanthi Srinivan and her students.

Vasanthi, who trained with the late Manuppa Pillai in Calcutta, opened with items she recently recorded with Guru K N Daksinamurthy in Delhi. The pieces were well chosen from the repertoire of his family of illustrious natuvanars. The Varnam, dedicated to Lord Siva, to whom Daksinamurthy and his family are devotees, was a composition of his late brother, Dandayudapani. This piece included descriptive passages that Vasanti enacted with convincing abhinaya, as she described Siva's attributes and beseached him to share his grace with her. Her expression was also displayed to good effect in the bhajan by Surdas which Vasanti choreographed in Bharata Natyam style. The recorded music that accompanied Vasanti was excellent, in particular Akhila Krishnan; singing and Daksinamurthy's delivery of the bols provide an inspiration for any dancer.

The second half of the recital was a new production by the school. Encouraged by their success last year when they presented, the Tagore play, Chandalika, as a dance drama, Vasanti and Nandita Bhatnagar once again collaborated to create Ritu Ranga. It consisted of short dances designed to evoke the different stages of love that women experience by relating these emotional states to the six seasons of India. The dances were accompanied by poetry in Sanskrit and Bengali, spanning several centuries and included selections from Kalidasa (5thc), as well as 20th century writers: Rabindranath Tagore, Nirupana Devi (possibly the first Bengali woman poet) Jasimuddin (a celebrated Muslim poet) and Nandita Bhatnagar who drew their common experience together by adding her own well written verse. For the Bengali speakers in the audience it was a welcome treat to hear these poems in their soft and lyrical language skillfully put to music.

The dance drama opened with summer represented by a selection from Tagore's **The Crossing.**

'I am the weary Earth of summer, bare of life and parched'....followed by the monsoon season which included a section from Tagore's Nobel prize poem, **Gitanjali:**

'Art thou aboard on this stormy night on thy journey of love, my friend? By what dim shore of pitch-black river, by what far-edge of the frowning forest, through what mazy depth of gloom art thou threading thy course to come to me, my love?'

The verses were alternately read by Nandita and Rajesh Dayal, each providing contrasting moods.

Vasanti ably choreographed the dances to these poems for her students so that all 34 could participate.

She incorporated a nice mixture of folk and classical movements, allowing even her youngest students to participate and all moved in synchronism. Amongst the students special mention must be made of the crisp duet performed by Kanina and Jaya.

The dancers in Ritu Ranga were:

Soloists:
Vasanti Srinivasan,
Vrinda Bhagwat,
Kaning Bhatnagar,
Jaya Bose.

Intermediates:
Anjali & Amrita Varma
Rumala & Anita Kabir
Supriya Rao
Betsy Chaly
Soma Chatterjee
Sangeeta Harwalkar
Amana Ashraf
Lalitha Parameswaran
Daisy Sahoo
Tina Bose

Juniors:
Sachi & Urvasi Sharma
Pratiba & Geeta Gupta
Maya Chaly
Seema Bhatnagar
Mona Ahuja
Sharon Panasar
Manish Madan
Salini Roy
Amy Das
Monica Chadda

Seniors:

Manju Anand
Mazlin Darsi
Gauri Kant
Laly Kant
Seethal Sunga

Behind the dancers shadow backdrops added immeasurably to the mood of the performance. For these the group is fortunate to have the assistance of Mita Saha, and Satya Bhatnagar for the backdrops and Srini Iyenger for lighting. The orchestra led by Ratna Ray inspired the students to perform with feeling and included:

Vocalists:
Chobi Choudry
Soma Hazra
Sesh Iyengar
Nazeed Kamal
Atulesh Nandi
Mita Saha
Indu Sahay

Sitar:
P.K. Basu

Dholak:
Vimla Sharma

Tabla:
L. Sunga

Manjira:
Joy Sengupta

Flute:
Dr. P.K. Basu, who came from Toronto.

Manju Anand ably emceed in both English and French.

The proceeds went to the Ottawa Handicapped Association and the Indo-Canadian Community Centre.

This ambitious endeavour could not have taken place without long hours put in by a great number of parents and well wishers. Special attention must be made of these people for without their untiring support such a production could never have taken place: Naz Ashraf, Kanak Kant, Jayanti Roy, Jharna Chatterjii, Shashi Varma and Nila Rao.

The warm enthusiasm of the capacity audience acclaimed the evening a success and reaffirmed that East Indian Dancing continues to be popular. The group plans to perform in Buffalo, Pittsburg, Sudbury and Toronto soon.

Register jewellery at customs

By Dick Lochan

If you have been around a travel agent's office, the airports or Canada Customs offices lately you may have noticed the presence of some brightly colourful booklets sitting on their shelves. They are copies of the new Customs "I declare" booklets, revised February, 1981.

The new booklets contain a new list of contents itemizing everything therein, along with the appropriate page reference for your simple and easy use.

There is a new section on goods subject to import control, like footwear, that might require an import permit depending on value and quantity, and, tells who you should contact for further information.

There is a new section put in dealing specifically with jewellery. The booklet suggests that you travel with the fewest possible pieces. It is further suggested that if you do decide to travel with some jewellery be sure to obtain and take along with you an appraisal report, certified photo, bill of sale or Customs receipt - as means of positive identification, in case you are questioned on your return.

The new booklet also shows the increased gift allowance of $25 dollars Canadian.

There are reminders that all figures used in the booklet refer to the Canadian dollar and that any payment to Customs can be in cash, travellers' cheques or certified cheque.

Finally, there are new sections included to help you understand the Customs Officer's role, the purpose of secondary inspection and a listing of Regional Customs Offices across Canada, in case you wish further information.

OCEAN DEVELOPMENT BEING SET UP

New Delhi, [UNI] - The Indian marine industry is being revamped to develop its fisheries output and other sea resources from the ocean surrounding the country on three sides.

Communi in Toron

Indians from every part of the Sub-continent, and those of Indian origin from other parts of the world, have increasingly been a source of indelible contribution to the economic and social structure of Canada.

More recently, with an augmenting sense of awareness of their need as a community withio Canadian society, a project is under way which seeks to bring into realization a point de rendezvous, a nucleus for the socio-cultural wealth of the Indo-Canadian Community in Toronto.

Nirvan Bhavan is a non-profit, charitable organization which is committed to raising funds for the establishment of an Indo-Canadian Cultural and Community Centre in Metropolitan Toronto. The Centre will be secular, reflecting the multicultural, multilingual and multireligious heritage of the peoples of Indian origin. It is envisaged that the Centre will serve to acquaint other

Crash oil pr

New Delhi, [UNI] - India's crude oil production from known offshore and onshore fields can be raised to a peak of 29 million tonnes per year in another four years, under the rapid development program envisaged by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC).

This gigantic effort is aimed at steering the country through the oil crisis it

EARNING INTEREST IS NOT UN-ISLAMIC

New Delhi, [UNI] - Earning interest is not un-Islamic if it is used for charitable or missionary purpose.

This has been decreed by Syed Ahmed Ali Syed, Mufti-e-Azam of the Darul Uloom, Deoband, in the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, and accepted by the governing body of the Institute.

The controversy arose last year when the Institute refused to draw interest on 750,000 dollars it had deposited with the local branch of a nationalised bank, as earning or payment of interest is considered un-Islamic.

Syed Ahmed Ali in his fatwa (judgment), said as the Islamic law was not prevalent in India, interest could be used for charitable or missionary work.

The judgment has also been endorsed by Mufti Qufayat Ullah of Madrasa-Amena of Kashmiri Gate (New Delhi).

The Darul-Uloom authorities had withdrawn the money from the bank and kept it under "poor and charitable fund" head. However, the money has not been used so far by the Institute for any such work.

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Community centre in Toronto

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Guided by this aspiration, a fund-raising dinner-dance was held on May 29th. It featured 17 Gourmet Indian dishes, a short after dinner entertainment and an auction of Indo-Persian carpets as well as Jewellery. The $35.00 a person evening at the Armenian Community Centre was a sell-out with 350 patrons who represented the rich multiplicity of Indo-Canadians and prominent Canadians from Ontario. Among those who attended are: - The leader of opposition party, Dr. Stuart Smith and his wife Pat, MPs David Smith, Jim Peterson and his wife Heather, Dean John Ricker (Faculty of Education, University of Toronto), Prof. George Bancroft, Director of Citizenship Branch, Government of Ontario, Ms. Whipple Stern Haus, Bill Marsano (Editor of T.V. Guide) and his wife Lillian, Alan Toff (Art Consultant), Alan Wilkinson, John Frazer (Columnist for Globe and Mail), Pran Soni, Consul-General of India and his wife Kamal, Dr. B. Ubale, the Race-Relations Commissioner, Government of Ontario, D. Juneja, President, William and Mercer Company, etc.

The patrons were greeted by 8-year old girls Aparna Desai, Kavita Chauvan, and Priti Adhopia with gold-coloured garlands especially flown in

Donations to the evening included wine from Jordan and Ste-Michelle Cellars Ltd., food from Moghul and Curry-N-Kebob restaurants and music by Cabbage Town Strutters.

Professor Jamshed Mavalwala of the University of Toronto was Emcee and Dr. Kappu Desai who has been very active in the Indo-Canadian Community for a number of years was the co-ordinator.

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This gigantic effort is aimed at steering the country through the oil crisis it has been facing because of 28-fold rise in the prices in the past eight years.

The target of 29 million tonnes is ambitious as it would be nearly two-third of India's projected annual oil consumption of 43.9 million tonnes in 1985 at six per cent annual growth rate.

India's main hope for oil production is pinned on its modest offshore reserves both in the western and the eastern coasts -- estimated at 270 million tonnes with an additional 50 million tonnes that can be obtained through secondary recovery methods like water injection. These reserves will last only 15 years.

Problems in Gulf investments

New Delhi,[UNI]-The Indian Government is keen that the surplus earnings of the oil-exporting countries should be recycled and utilised to sustain development projects in India.

But the government is also aware that the Gulf nations would not be willing to invest in long gestation projects in the country. Also, India has not a sufficient number of quick-yielding investment opportunities to attract large petro-dollars.

Officials in India feel that the Gulf countries are mostly looking for short gestation projects with a quick and high return on their investment.

While India needs funds badly, it needs the Gulf countries to invest them in the core sectors and basic industries. But their interest in the core sector and infrastructure investment is considered limited. The preference is for soft loans carrying a small service charge and little or no interest at all and with a long repayment period. But the OPEC nations are less willing to provide such soft assistance.

OPEC official assistance committed to India is 402 million dollars. The maximum interest charge does not exceed 4%. The Saudi Arabian fund for development has given a loan of 132 million dollars. The Abu Dhabi fund for Arab economic development has given 15 million dollars and the Kuwaiti fund for Arab economic development has given 150 million dollars for three power projects in India.

While evincing keen interest in investments in India both the governments of Kuwait and United Arab Emirates and the private enterpreneurs there have reiterated the need for a relaxation of the policy of the Indian government on foreign investments.

In recent months, State governments in India have directly sought investments from the OPEC countries. A delegation from Gujarat visited these countries in January, and Maharashtra is sending a delegation very soon.

Gujarat has sought OPEC assistance for investment worth 1875 million dollars spread over 16 projects. It is hopeful of getting such assistance amounting to 1,000 million dollars by way of equity participation through loans.

Video to check piracy

New Delhi, [UNI]- The National Film Development corporation has decided to start production of video films shortly to check piracy of Indian films.

Giving this information to the consultative committee of members of Parliament attached to his Ministry Information and Broadcasting Minister Vasant Sathe said an independent unit will be set up under the auspites of NFDC to produce video films.

Leading film producers had also suggested to the Government that it should take up production of these films to check piracy.

Mr. Sathe said the Films Division producers were given full freedom in the treatment of the subject of making documentary films. The only constraint, he added, was that films should serve the overall objective of informing and educating the people.

He said he himself was against projecting any negative side of India abroad. His Ministry had, however, not banned any such films. These films had been shown abroad and had won awards at international festivals, he added.

Roads in 700 B.C

Lucknow [Uttar Pradesh], [UNI] - Discoveries of antiques belonging to ancient Indian dynasties dating as far back as 700 B.C. are indicative of the culture and prosperity prevalent during the period.

The excavations, carried out in Hulashera village, 30 kilometres from Lucknow, the capital of the Northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, have yielded a rare antique gold plaque, iron and bone arrow heads and hoard of copper coins of the Kushan and Gupta periods.

The Gupta dynasty which lasted from the fourth to the fifth century is also known as the Golden period of Indian history for the abundance of wealth and affluence.

Director of the U.P. Archaeology Department, R.C. Singh who headed the team of archaeologists, said for the first time in the history of Indian archaeology with the exposure of a nine and a half metre wide road strip a layout road planning during ancient times had come to light.

The presence of ruins of Kushan period buildings constructed with bricks belonging to 200 and 300 B.C. and fragments of earthern tiles with two holes in each of them, was indicative of the preference for sloping roofs. The site also has three rooms, a verandah, a few hearths and some other vestiges suggestive of a kitchen.

The site, among other things, also yielded silver coins of the third and fourth centuries besides bone styluses and earthen seals bearing inscriptions in characters. Items made of copper and glass were also unearthed.

Mr. Singh said the whole range of discoveries showed that the dynasties which flourished even as far back as 700 B.C. were self-sufficient and their mode of living was very developed.

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Mufti Ahmed Ali said the interest system was prevalent in almost all Muslim countries.

Navy acquire sea carrier

New Delhi, [UNI] - The Indian Navy, in an effort to develop its defence capability, will approach the Union Government for the purchase of another eight Sea Carriers.

The Sea Carriers will provide the aircraft carrier "Vikrant" with an effective air arm. This is deemed necessary in view of the flow of sophisticated arms into the neighbouring country and developments in the Indian Ocean.

Encouraged by the response from naval pilots who are getting the "feel of the Sea Carriers" in the United Kingdom, the Indian Navy, for all practical purposes, will exercise its option which forms part of the acquisition agreement it has signed with the British Aerospace in December, 1979.

The Indian Navy had, for quite some time, been pleading for developing an integrated defence capability. An integrated capability means that apart from ships and submarines, the Navy should have an effective air arm to carry out preemptive action against hostile ships, missile boats, submarines and aircraft.

Call for peace

New Delhi, [UNI]-India and yemen have expressed concern at the growing military presence in the Indian Ocean and called for efforts at lessening tensions and promoting the cause of peace and stability.

Speaking at a banquet here the President, Sanjiva Reddy, warned of a dangerous confrontation building up in the Indian Ocean due to super power rivalry.

Mr. Reddy said the Indian Ocean, far from becoming a zone of peace, bristled with arsenals. These developments encroached on the well-being of the littoral states.

Mr. Reddy wanted all efforts to be directed at ensuring speedy implementation of the declaration that Indian Ocean be maintained a zone of peace.

Replying to the toast, the Yemeni President charged United States of forming military pacts and establishing military groupings to threaten regimes which had chosen the path of independent social development.

Better New Delhi pavilion in Toronto

Toronto:In cooperation with various Indian Organisations, New Delhi Pavilion 1981 Planning Committee is preparing for bigger, better and more beautiful pavilion this year at Metro International Caravan, 1981.

East Indian Community has been part of this annual celebration of multiculturalism since 1976. This year New Delhi Pavilion will be located at Scadding Court Community Centre, 707 Dundas St.West, south east corner of Dundas and Bathurst. The Pavilion will be open from 19th June to 27th June between 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. on week days and between 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. on weekends.

The festival gives the community an opportunity to share our culture, customs and food. This year Metro International Caravan will present cultures from over 45 countries. A passport that can be bought from Manu Patel will allow you to visit any pavilion. Phone:493-6204

Indo-Bangla differences on Ganges

New Delhi, [UNI]-Differences still persist between India and Bangladesh over the sharing of waters of the river Ganga, which meanders through several states in the eastern part of India before reaching the Bay of Bengal.

The inter-government meeting for the review of Indo-Bangladesh agreement on sharing of the Ganga waters at Farakka bordering Bangladesh, held last week at Dacca, noted that the question of augmentation of dry season flow of the river would have to be decided upon by the two Governments at a high political level.

The Indian Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Birendra Singh, told Parliament that the mandate of the Joint Rivers Commission had expired in November last year without making any progress towards implementation of Part 'B' of the 1977 agreement.

Conference on Heritage language

Ottawa - Multiculturalism Minister Jim Fleming today announced that a National Conference on Heritage Language Education will be held at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, June 15 - 17, 1981.

The Conference will focus on Heritage Language Education: Direction for the 1980s.

Participants will come from all parts of Canada, from all levels of government, public and private sector institutions and concerned community organizations representative of native and ethnocultural groups.

Bandits and society

New Delhi, [UNI] - Every year scores of determined, desperate men and women enter the Chambal ravines, about 200 kms south of Delhi, to wreak vengence on society which they feel has let them down and discriminated against them, denying them justice and an existence with honour.

Over the years, the area has become the haven for the dacoits (bandits), mostly because of its strategic position on the borders of three Indian states -- Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. The borders are advantageous to the outlaws in that they can commit a crime in one state and disappear into another soon after evading police action.

It has been seen that some of the dacoits had been leading a well-to-do life before they plunged into crime. Some of them belong to the high caste Hindus and others have led a life of a status. Some others have had an interrupted army or police job.

Dacoits in India have sometimes worked all alone, but the more notorious and successful ones have organised themselves in gangs. With the death of two dacoits, Dongar and Batri, in the sprawling central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, in 1960, armed banditry seemed to have ended. But a new beginning was made by Man Singh, perhaps the most dreaded dacoit in the country, who appeared near the Chambal ravines on March 3, 1939, after serving an imprisonment for eleven years.

Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh became the stronghold of Man Singh and his men. Man Singh unleashed a reign of terror from 1939 to 1955 -- his crimes are unsurpassed in the history of banditry in the country. The nemesis came on May 25, 1955. Five years later, the Man Singh legend came to an end, when the leader of what remained the Man Singh's gang, Lukka, surrendered with his 19 men to the aging Gandhian, Vincha Bhave.

Cancer hospital in Gwalior

Gwalior,[UNI]-When Shitla Sahai lost his only son afflicted by blood cancer a decade ago, he vowed that no cancer patient would henceforth die for want of treatment.

A trust was formed and a Cancer Hospital and Research Institute (CHRI) was constructed and dedicated to the "suffering humanity"

The Institute is equipped with the latest technological devices such as fast medical scanners, the thyroid uptake machine, vacuum forming machine and simulator machine.

The CHRI has also a renal scanner meant for investigation of the kidneys and a Bradma machine which embosses all data about a patient on metal plates for record and reference for other departments and other hospitals where patients might go for treatment.

The instruments and facilities to be installed shortly at the institute include mammograph for diagnosis of breast cancer and a research microscope besides some pathological equipments.

The basic area of investigation from normal to malignant by chemical substances which caused cancer. The efforts are aimed at synthesising new drugs with less toxic effects as the drugs now being used to combat the disease are cytotoxic which not only destroy the cancerous tissue but also the normal body tissue.

It would also undertake a screening of Indian medicinal plants and herbs, particularly for the study of their anti-tumour properties.

The CHRI has also proposed to start biochemistry and tissue culture laboratories in addition to the chemical and pathological laboratories which are already working.

Hockey experts caution

Chandigarh, [UNI] - Hockey coaches and former Olympic players here feel that India should step up the training program for its hockey players in order to make an impact in the world cup scheduled to be held in Bombay late this year and the 9th Asian Games in New Delhi in 1982.

They suggest that a systematic and continuous training has to be given to the Indian players if they want to uphold their prestige redeemed in the Moscow Olympics.

The experts felt that India should not be complacent over its victory in the last Olympics but visualise the tough competition from top contenders who did not figure in the last Olympics.

Coming events

CONVENTION

Under the auspites of the Association of Indian Students in America, the first convention of Indian Students will be held on June 27 at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago. This convention shall feature seminars of interest to the Indian community in U.S.A. and cultural events. Students from various Universities all over the U.S.A. and other respected members of the Indian community will be attending the convention.

SIKH CONVENTION

All-Canada Sikh Convention will be held in Calgary on August 2. A draft of the constitution of the Federation of Societies Representing Sikhs in Canada will be presented at the Convention.

The Ottawa Sikh Society will be staging a drama called "Rani Jinda" by a celebrated group from Punjab and Delhi on July 10 at 7 p.m. at the High School of Commerce. For information please call J.S.Vaid 226-3643.

FREE HINDI CLASSES

Ottawa: Free Hindi classes are held once a week at the Merivale Public School and Merivale High School, Monday to Friday rom 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Carleton Board of Education is offering free Hindi Classes in summer Monday to Friday, from 12 -3 p.m. in July and August at Sir Winston Churchill Middle School. The classes are scheduled to start on July 6 and end on August 15. Anyone interested in enrolling may call 226-5048.

Project Tiger

New Delhi,[UNI] -Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi agreed with the view expressed by members of the steering committee of Project Tiger at the Committee's meeting that the project whould become the "flag ship" of all conservation efforts in the country and ecological system management.

Mrs.Gandhi was also of the view that poaching has become an international menace and was not confined to India alone. Hence the Government must adopt all sophisticated methods to fight the evil.

Home of the Mango

New Delhi, [UNI]-India is the home of the mango. Nearly 80 % of the total world's produce is grown in this country. Kuwait, The United States and the Great Britain are the major importers of the fruit from India. Alphonse, one of the best varieties of mango, is a delicacy of the Arabs.

But India exports only 10% of the total world's exports and 0.01% of the total domestic produce.

Baffling weather forecasts

New Delhi, [UNI] - Local weather forecasting in India has come under heavy weather. A large amount of money has been spent to ascertain climatic changes in the country, but the record of the past 100 years do not show any such changes.

Officials of the Meteorological Department are trying their best to prove that often people tend to misinterpret the forecasts. Whenever the weather forecast fails to come true, the weatherman is criticised for his lack of ability in the work.

Officials believe that this stems from the lack of proper appreciation of the terminology used by the weatherman. But words like "will occur," "likely to occur," "may occur," "slight risk" and "chance" baffle the people. The weatherman says that these words are not used to cover up failures, but to convey the recognition of conflicting factors.

It is easier to foretell the weather over wide areas but difficult when it is about a small area. It is hazardous in the absence of a specific, well defined weather situation, the officials say. Again, the local forecast is meant for people living in areas with a diameter of 50 nautical miles. The forecast does not always apply to each area within that range.

There is also a confusion among the people over the connotation of a cyclonic storm and a thunderstorm, the officials say. While a cyclonic storm originates from the ocean and gradually weakens as it enters the land, a thunderstorm develops on the land and is not as devastating as a cyclonic storm.

KITCHEN

By Pranati SenGu

I am often asked what my fav hard question to answer. But f choose fish. There is no fish t (chick-pea flour) is used extens fish where it acts like a blottin -fluous oils and the fishy odour. dishes that can be made with delight.

Fresh fish and exotic seafoods people of Scandinavia, Indi Portugal and the Caribbean. eat very little fish. The fre survival to several ethnic gro Canada. Fish is high in protein (when the fish is cooked wit Indian style) and many valuab your menu at least once a week also be giving the budget a bre the most economical foods on t

Visit a fish market. The world few frozen blocks you see at the a fresh rainbow trout or red sn will discover the tasty world of f bought, after an initial wince, salmon at $1.85 a pound. To m to my delight, the defrosted quality.

Fish Qorma

2½ lbs. fish steaks (salmon, s thick, then cut each steak lengthwise.
1 tsp. salt, 1 tsp. turmeric and Combine ½ cup thick plain yo coconut and 1 tbsp. chopped fr Combine 2 tbsp. freshly groun I used coffee grinder to grind r 1 tsp. mustard or vegetable to a small bowl and cover for 1 the recipe.
1 tsp. curry powder
4 hot green chili, cut into piece ½ tsp. or more salt to taste
¼ tsp. sugar

Wash and drain fish steaks, s over, rub into cavity and lea thoroughly and dry on paper to 1 tsp. turmeric and 1 tbsp. oi room temperature. Arrange fi glass pan. Pour over coconut and mix well with fingers. Sp Cover with foil (dull side up) oven (300F.) for about 25 minu continue baking for another 10 flakes easily. Garnish with l with just plain boiled rice.

Summer cours spirituality

The Sri Sathya Sai Baba spiritual Council of Canada in Windsor is organizing the second annual summer course on spirituality, Religion and Culture from August 20 -25. Lectures covering topics such as Sai Baba, Sanathana Dharma, Comparative Religion, Bhagawad Gita, Vedas, Upanishads, Puranas, etc. will be held. The lectures will be in English and at a basic level so that the average teenager can follow them easily. They are intended to introduce the youth to their immense spiritual heritage. Students will be encouraged to ask questions and clarify their doubts. Persons over the age of 25 may attend the lectures, as observers. Children under 12 will not be permitted in the lecture hall. All partcipants, students and observers should be registered by completing the application form.

The programme is free. Boarding and lodging will be provided free by Sai families of Windsor. Participants should bring their own bedding. All those who will be attending the lectures are expected to be clean

KITCHEN KORNER

By Pranati SenGupta

I am often asked what my favorite food is. I find that a hard question to answer. But forced to make a choice, I'd choose fish. There is no fish that I don't enjoy. Bessan (chick-pea flour) is used extensively in the preparation of fish where it acts like a blotting paper, absorbing superfluous oils and the fishy odour. I find the wide variety of dishes that can be made with fish makes it a constant delight.

Fresh fish and exotic seafoods have been norishing the people of Scandinavia, India, China, Japan, Italy, Portugal and the Caribbean. On comparing, Canadians eat very little fish. The fresh fish stores owe their survival to several ethnic groups who have settled in Canada. Fish is high in protein, vitamin A & D, Calcium (when the fish is cooked with its bone, especially in Indian style) and many valuable minerals. Put fish on your menu at least once a week for your family. You will also be giving the budget a break since fish is still one of the most economical foods on the market.

Visit a fish market. The world of fish is not limited to the few frozen blocks you see at the supermarket. Start with a fresh rainbow trout or red snapper and gradually you will discover the tasty world of fish. Just the other day, I bought, after an initial wince, a five pound frozen pink salmon at $1.85 a pound. To my surprise and very much to my delight, the defrosted fish was of exceptional quality.

Fish Qorma:

2½ lbs. fish steaks (salmon, shad or king fish) 1 inch thick, then cut each steak about 10 pieces in half lengthwise.
1 tsp. salt, 1 tsp. turmeric and 1 tbsp. oil
Combine ½ cup thick plain yogurt, ½ cup grated fresh coconut and 1 tbsp. chopped fresh ginger root in a bowl.
Combine 2 tbsp. freshly ground black (Indian) mustard (I used coffee grinder to grind mustard
1 tsp. mustard or vegetable oil and 1 tbsp. water in a small bowl and cover for 15 minutes before using in the recipe.
1 tsp. curry powder
4 hot green chili, cut into pieces
½ tsp. or more salt to taste
¼ tsp. sugar

Wash and drain fish steaks, sprinkle chick-pea flour all over, rub into cavity and leave for 30 minutes, wash thoroughly and dry on paper towel. Rub with 1 tsp. salt, 1 tsp. turmeric and 1 tbsp. oil and marinate 1 hour at room temperature. Arrange fish steaks in an 8 x 8 inch glass pan. Pour over coconut mixture, mustard mixture and mix well with fingers. Sprinkle green chili on top. Cover with foil (dull side up) and bake in a preheated oven (300F.) for about 25 minutes, baste with sauce and continue baking for another 10 to 15 minutes, or until fish flakes easily. Garnish with lemon wedges. Delicious with just plain boiled rice.

Summer course on spirituality

The Sri Sathya Sai Baba Spiritual Council of Canada in Windsor is organizing the second annual summer course on spirituality, Religion and Culture from August 20 -23. Lectures covering topics such as Sai Baba, Sanathana Dharma, Comparative Religion, Bhagawad Gita, Vedas, Upanishads, Puranas, etc. will be held. The lectures will be in English and at a basic level so that the average teenager can follow them easily. They are intended to introduce the youth to their immense spiritual heritage. Students will be encouraged to ask questions and clarify their doubts. Persons over the age of 25 may attend the lectures, as observers. Children under 12 will not be permitted in the lecture hall. All participants, students and observers should be registered by completing the application form.

The programme is free. Boarding and lodging will be provided free by Sai families of Windsor. Participants should bring their own bedding. All those who will be attending the lectures are expected to be clean and modestly clothed. Shorts and sleeveless blouses are not permitted. Strict discipline is to be maintained at all times. Smoking and drinking are not allowed.

For further information, contact:

Dr Viswanath P.Singh,
President of the Council,
3582 Huntington Ave.,
Windsor, Ontario,
N9E 3M8
Res.[519]969-2845
off.[519]966-1770

Iraqi contract won

New Delhi, [UNI] - India has bagged a major railway contract in Iraq valued at 217 million dollars against stiff international competition.

Under the contract, the India Railways Construction Company (IRCON) will construct 30 route km (60 track km) of railway line near Samawa, 270 km south of Baghdad and a new station at Samawa.

The work involves construction of 85 bridges, including three major ones on the river Euphrates, 410 staff quarters and service and workshop buildings.

Maniar elected

Dr. A.C. Maniar of Winnipeg, a Past President of the Manitoba Citizenship Council, was elected President of the Canadian Citizenship Federation at their National Symposium and 1981 Conference which was held in Hamilton, Ontario recently.

DR. A.C. MANIAR

Several members from Ottawa were elected to the Board of Directors. These were George Bonavia, Vice President, Mrs. Lois Utman, Treasurer, Mrs. Anne Dojack, Secretary and Charles E. Dojack, Ontario Regional Vice President. Mrs. Margaret Verma of Ottawa was also elected to the Board. Over 60 delegates from across Canada attended the Conference.

Miss Whipple Steinkrauss, Director, Citizenship Development Branch, Government of Ontario addressed the Conference on "Citizenship in our Multicultural Society." Hon. John Munro, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Judge Alice McKeown, the National Coordinator of Citizenship Judges, also addressed the meeting.

Passage through Bangladesh sought

New Delhi,[UNI] -In an obvious effort to ease the movement of essential commodities to its remote north eastern states, India has asked Bangladesh to allow the use of its railway track for this purpose. These trains will be custom sealed and would run through that country carrying commodities to the eastern region.

India has been facing difficulties in this regard because only a narrow strip of land between Bangladesh and Nepal connects the eastern region to the rest of the country. Transportation through the narrow strip is not only time consuming but also hazardous.

The Indian Railway Minister, Kadar Pandey, said that trains would enter at Parbatipur (north Bangladesh) and cover a length of 400 to 500 kms to Akhaura (eastern Bangladesh) to reenter Indian territory in the fareastern state of Tripura.

Mr.Pandey said that Bangladesh had agreed at their level, but the question had to be dealt with by the External Affairs Ministry.

The minister stated that Bangladesh was agreeable to the system of transhipment but India did not agree to this. The entire train has to be moved by the Indian engines and by its crew and for that it could issue passport to the Indian crew.

Beating the cenema rush

New Delhi,[UNI]-Nearly a thousand films are made all over India to cater to the tastes of the cinema-going population. Several hundred people all over India go to see a movie every day; "house-full" signs are often displayed outside cinema houses even in sultry and hot weather. Films in India are the most popular entertainment.

Keeping in view the growing interest of the cinema-going population a Working Group on National Film Policy has felt that there is a shortage of theatres in the country and has suggested the construction of 6,750 more theatres by 1985, each with an average capacity of 500 seats.

This would mean opening 1,350 theatres a year, corresponding to the target of about ten seats per thousand population (anticipating a population of 700 million by 1985).

As on January 31, 1980, there were as many as 10,392 theatres in the country for an estimated population of more than 600 million. This included 6,368 permanent and 4,024 touring theatres.

Touring theatres are peculiar to India. They operate only for a part of the year mostly in the rural areas and do not run more than two shows a day.

The Working Group has also done a bit of calculation so as to make programming easier. The calculations have been compared with the similar data available from other countries.

Apart from the shortage of theatres, even the existing ones are not uniformally spread out across the country.

The Working Group reports that while Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have about 20 seats per thousand of population, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Jammu and Kashmir have less than five seats. Assam, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab have less than seven seats and Maharashtra less than ten seats. The position in Gujarat and Karnataka is slightly better while Kerala has about 13 seats per thousand of population.

Tristars for Air India

New Delhi, [UNI]-India's international airlines "Air India" will replace its present fleet of Boeing 707s by the sophisticated wide-bodied L-1011 Tristars.

The choice of the Tristar 500 has been approved by the Board of Directors of the Airlines at its meeting held in April. Now the recommendation remains to be forwarded to the Government.

The Committee which evaluated three types of wide-body jets - McDonnel Douglas's DC-10, Lockheeds L-1011 and Airbus Industry's A 300 B-4 version - considered the three-engined Tristar economically viable in respect of fuelsaving and revenue generation.

The Committee has initially suggested the purchase of three Tristars - two for delivery by next year and one in 1983. It has also favoured the powerful fuel saving Rolls Royce engines to power the latest version of the Tristar-500, currently in operation with the British Airways and Pan Am.

The Lockheed officials who were in Bombay recently have gone back to prepare a detailed cost report of the aircraft.

The nine 707s in the Air India fleet have to be phased out gradually. Airlines all over the world are hastily replacing the 707s and other similar narrow-body aircraft of its generation by more fuel efficient, high capacity aircraft of different varieties to suit the operation patterns. The 707s are uneconomical now since their operational costs have gone up sky-high following the explosive rise in the price of fuel.

Out of Air India's nine 707s, two have already been grounded and two others are to be phased out before the end of this year. Of the remaining five, four have been structurally modified for safe operation till 1985 when they too will be phased out.

Wonderland opened

By Dick Lochan

On Saturday, May 23, 1981 Canada's Wonderland, it's first theme park of 370 acre playground opened amid great fanfare in the small town of Maple, just outside Toronto.

The official ribbon-cutting ceremony was conducted by Ontario's Premier, William Davis in a very classy and grand way. Fort York soldiers were on guard for the occasion and 10,000 balloons and 350 white doves were released into the air.

It is intended to be Canada's own Disneyland and is designed to provide great fun for the kids and the entire family. Officials figure you can get by on $80.00 for a family of four.

Now, you won't have to plan to take the kids to Orlando no more - just bring them to Maple. And, think of all the money you can save.

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****

Correspondence invited from educated, Bengali Hindu boys, (Kaysto family); for our charming sister, 22, Canadian immigrant and is also working. Please send photo/particulars M-1795, The Canadian India Times.

****

Suitable match for an electrical engineer, (boy), 24½, presently in London, England, wishes to migrate to Canada. Please call (514) 336-1042, Harnam Kakkar, or mail replies to: 12255 Place Henri Beau, Montreal H4K - 2H2.

A well settled doctor wants suitable match for his niece, 24, B.Ed., 5'-3" and very pretty. Presently she is in Montreal for a visit. U.S./ Canadian immigrants need apply. Boy's merits main consideration. Please contact Dr. Dewan, 9017 Airlie, LaSalle, Quebec or Tel., 659-3103.

******

Correspondence invited for two handsome Ramgarhia boys, 28, (5'-11") M.A. Hons. and 26 years (5'-9") B.A. are visiting for five weeks from West Germany. Girls merits only consideration. Contact: Harry Bhamra, Phone: 604-423-6033. Box 642, Fernie, B.C. V0B 1MO, Canada.

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Around the world on bycycle

New Delhi, [UNI]-She has been pedalling around the world for the "sheer fun of it" for the past 17 years.

In 1964, Miss Linette Dalmasso of France dispensed with her car and switched to a bicycle. Since then, she has travelled roughly 150,000 km of land, covering all parts of the globe.

Her arrival in India in February was the first ever visit to the sub-continent. Since then she has done nearly 35,00 km on her cycle in North and Central India. With lot more left to explore she will come again next year to cover the Southern Indian peninsula. She had to cut short her visit to return to Paris to catch up on her music concerts which provide the finances for her passion on wheels. It is not surprising that she sings in as many as eight languages.

Miss Dalmasso, with a dauntless spirit of adventure, schedules her cycling at an easy pace, and she travels leisurely absorbing the scenic beauty and mingling with the local populace.

She says she has not faced a single bitter incident and has had no "really dangerous experience. Nobody has tried to kill me, criminally assault me, rob me, arrest me or harass me in any way. The message of my wanderings is that even a weak woman can go anywhere she likes without fear," she asserts.

With a visiting card which simply reads: "Linette Dalmasso, French lady cyclist" and a 12 kg sturdy bicycle which has served her "like a faithfull dog", a weary Dalmasso at the end of a day has no inhibitions about knocking at a household door to seek nocturnal shelter.

In all these 17 adventurous years there have only been three mishaps when her cycle was punctured - once in Romania, once in Ireland and the latest in India.

Glider demonstration

Pune, [UNI] - Five men soared high in the blue morning sky, bird-like, while awed spectators marvelled at their dexterity.

The event was a daring demonstration of group hang-gliding in which man flies like a bird with the help of a kite without any automatic flying devices.

Claimed to be the first of its kind in the country, the display was organised on May 24 by the Sapper Adventure Foundation at the college of Military Engineering (CME) here in the Western State of Maharashtra.

The hang-gliders kicked the tops of high hills in the nearby range to glide magestically like birds under the leadership of an army engineer, Major Vivek Mundkur, pioneer of hang-gliding in India.

Sapper Sheesh Ram, who took to his wings first on a glider built on the lines of the British "Harrier" flew in a vertical position to touch down after a minute-long flight.

It was Captain Kenjalkar, however, who stole the show with his stay in the air lasting 3.04 minutes.

ZIMBABWEAN WOMEN CONTINUE FIGHT

New Delhi,[UNI] Women in Zimbabwe, even after an year of their country attaining independence, continue to be on the warpath.

During the protracted freedom struggle, Zimbabwean women had actively participated and fought along with the men. Women are fighting still to get a status equal to the men. Their struggle now is for more jobs, better education and representation in Parliament.

Sikh wins grievance

By Dick Lochan.

Gurnam Singh won not only his grievance, earlier this week, but also some $10,000 dollars in back pay from his Ontario Government's job as a prison guard at Guelph Correctional Centre, which he had filed after being demoted for refusing on religious ground to shave off his beard.

Singh was contesting the new policy, introduced in 1978 as a result of the Stratford jail fire which suffocated five inmates trapped in their cells, which directed all Ontario jail guards to be clean-shaven so there would be an effective seal around their air masks in case there would be another such incident, and, they had to rescue prisoners from their cells.

Singh claimed that he had already removed his turban and cut his long hair and beard back in 1973 to get the job in the first place. So, when the policy came into effect, he refused to shave off his beard on religious grounds. He regularly attends services at a Sikh temple and his trimmed beard demonstrated his religious beliefs. Nevertheless, he was demoted to a lower-paying clerical job. It was then he grieved, on the basis that he had been a good employee for five years and his demotion was strictly because he refused to violate his religious principles.

The Divisional Court ruled that the Grievance Settlement Board had the power to order the Ministry of Corrections to find Gurnam Singh an alternative position at the same salary and to reply him all lost wages due to the demotion.

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